



March 12, 2010

Co-Chair Edward Meyer
Co-Chair Richard Roy
Senator John McKinney
Representative Clark Chapin

Members of Environment Committee:

My name is Tom Devine; I work for my family's company Devine Bros., Inc. retailing heating fuel to mid and lower Fairfield County CT. I am a board member of The New England Fuel Institute (NEFI), The Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association (ICPA), The National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA), Washington, D.C. and formerly a member of the Connecticut Fuel Oil Conservation Board. **I am here today to testify in favor of S.B. 382.**

The conservation of fuel oil provides us with a cleaner environment, saves users of energy money and conserves the valuable resource oil. Devine Bros., Inc. has been conserving fuel oil by successfully retailing a blend ratio of 5% renewable biodiesel with 95% carbon based heating oil for the past six years. This blend referred to as bioheat, has afforded our customers the ability to burn a heating fuel with a reduced amount of carbon and sulfur translating to a cleaner burn resulting in a more efficient burn.

When carbon and sulfur are removed from heating oil, as in bioheat, and this product is burned in a boiler or furnace less soot is built up within the heating unit. Soot decreases the efficiency of a heating unit by acting as an insulation factor. With less soot being created, a heating unit will have better heat transfer in the heat exchanger resulting in efficiency retention. Ultimately, the result is a cost savings, conservation of fuel and use of a cleaner burning eco friendly product that lowers the carbon footprint of my customer.

According to a study performed by NORA, biodiesel when blended at 20% with an ultra low sulfur fuel would create a fuel for my customers that would be the cleanest burning fuel in the market. This would also be a fuel that would have the highest BTU rating among the energy's of propane, natural gas and electricity.

In regard to bioheat, if the entire heating fuel industry in the state of Connecticut retained bioheat since its introduction to this market six years ago, Connecticut would have already cut back the amount of carbon based fuel sold in the State by millions of gallons. The conservation of oil as the percentage of the bio component increases is staggering.

However, the State of Connecticut can not mandate biodiesel on its own. It is imperative that the surrounding states move together if a mandate were to be implemented. Otherwise we as an industry in Connecticut would be dealing with a boutique fuel which brings with it other challenges as well as putting us at a disadvantage to the surrounding states.

So long as the biodiesel meet ASTM D6751 standard and we can blend it with an ultra low sulfur heating fuel, and the mandate could be waived in the event of shortage I believe the heating oil industry can provide clean, renewable and efficient product to fuel oil consumers ultimately lowering their carbon footprint and creating less soot emissions to the environment - and that is what S.B. 382 dose for Connecticut!

Finally, this bill allows my company to get back into the off road diesel business. Several years ago the federal government changed the specification for off road diesel and I was no longer able to store it. By making heating oil and off road diesel the same product S.B. 382 allows me to reenter the off road diesel market.

I ask that you **vote in favor of S.B. 382.** If you have any questions I would be happy to answer them.

Thank you,
Thomas Devine